Walter Huber, 77, headed Tacoma General Hospital

Services will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow in First Baptist Church for Walter Huber, a retired Tacoma General Hospital president and chief executive officer who died Tuesday. He was 77.

Mr. Huber was noted for establishing a social service department at the hospital to help patients with their problems.

He joined the staff in 1950 as business manager and controller, moving up through the ranks to become president in 1974. The hospital's assets were $1 million in 1950 and $11 million when he retired 24 years later. He was chief staff officer for the Tacoma General building program in the 1960s, spearheading the effort to replace the hospital's old medical facilities.

Mr. Huber was born in Centralia and lived in Tacoma from 1934 until he retired in 1974 and moved to the Lake Tapps area.

He was a past president of the Washington State Hospital Association, the Pierce County Hospital Council, Washington State Chapter of the American Association of Hospital Accountants and Washington Chapter of Hospital Financial Management Association.

Mr. Huber also had been a member of the Nurses Planning Council and served on the board of directors of Blue-Cross Washington-Alaska, Inc. for 12 years, two of them as president, two as corporate secretary and seven as an executive committee member.

Other memberships included the Puget Sound Health Planning Council and the Washington State Hospital Association Insurance and Retirement Trust, which he served as a trustee.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Verna; two sons, Robert of Lake Oswego, Ore., and James of Colfax; two brothers, Frank of Salem, Ore., and Edwin of Bothell; and five grandchildren.

Buckley-King Downtown is in charge.

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